



Iran fans can't watch team compete in 2026 World Cup

## Description

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Iranian Players poses for one minute silent during 2026 World Cup Qualifier match between Iran v Cambodia

Iran has suffered a fresh blow just days before the start of the [2026 World Cup](#) after the Iranian Football Federation announced the withdrawal of its allocated share of fan tickets for its three World Cup matches.

The move has sparked widespread controversy and led Tehran to question whether political considerations are influencing the organisation of the tournament.

## Iran fans left disappointed

[Reuters](#) cited the Iranian Football Federation, which said it had already begun distributing and selling tickets for the national team's group stage matches, before it learnt about the tickets being withdrawn.

This means Iranian fans will be denied access to tickets through the federation's official channels.

The federation added that a large number of Iranian fans had already finalised their travel and accommodation arrangements. Depriving them of their official allocation, it argued, "contradicts the spirit of international competitions and the principle of equality among participating nations".

The Iranian [Football Federation](#) stressed that the decision raises "serious questions" about the interference of non-sporting and political considerations in the organisation of the World Cup.

## FIFA under pressure

According to tournament regulations, each participating federation receives 8% of the tickets for its matches to distribute to supporters. However, the Iranian Football Federation has not disclosed which body took the decision to withdraw the tickets.

It has also called on FIFA to intervene and uphold the principles of neutrality, fairness and the applicable regulations, warning that political issues could affect the atmosphere of the tournament.

FIFA has not yet released an official comment despite requests from the media for clarification on the reasons behind the decision.

## A series of crises before kick-off

The ticket crisis comes amid a series of complications faced by Iran since qualifying for the World Cup, against a backdrop of political and security tensions that escalated following the air strikes launched by the US and Israel against Iran in late February.

These circumstances prompted the Iranian Football Federation to negotiate [moving the team's base](#) from the US state of Arizona to

After weeks of uncertainty, all of Iran's players received their US entry visas just 10 days before their first match in the tournament. Meanwhile, several members of [administrative and technical staff](#) did not receive the required visas.

In an attempt to defuse tensions, FIFA announced that its general secretary, Mattias Grafström, had held a "positive" meeting with the president of the Iranian Football Federation, Mehdi Taj.

The meeting followed the team's arrival at their training camp in Mexico, emphasising that dialogue and cooperation would continue to ensure Iran could compete in the tournament under the best possible conditions.

The Iranian national team begins its World Cup campaign against New Zealand on 15 June, before facing Belgium on 21 June. Iran concludes its group stage matches against Egypt on 6 July.

Featured image via [Amin M. Jamali/ Getty Images](#)

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